GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Nodal Officer for Forest Dwellers Act
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States which have appointed/have not appointed nodal officers to investigate the cases related to the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 at present;

(b) whether the Government has made/ proposes to make any efforts for the appointment of such officers in those States which have not appointed the said nodal officers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) to (d) As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) and rules there under, responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the States/UTs. As per the information received from State Governments, till 30th April, 2017, the following States have appointed the nodal officers under FRA:-

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, West Bangal, A&N Island, Daman & Diu and D&N Haveli.

All State Governments/UT Administrations who are implementing the FRA have appointed Nodal Officers. However, some North Eastern States like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland & Sikkim have not appointed the nodal officers and reported that they are not implementing FRA. The reason reported behind this is that Mizoram has notified its adoption in the entire State in 2010. Nagaland is in process of examining the law. Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh feel that the FRA is not so relevant because of the prevalent customary community ownership of forest land. In Sikkim there are no forest dwelling STs and Other Forest Dwellers in the true sense of the term and most of STs of Sikkim hold revenue land in their own name and they are not solely dependent on the forests for their livelihood.

****